

靜宜大學 104 學年度碩士班招生考試試題

學系：英國語文學系

科目：語言學概論

I. Consider the following sentences. (20%)

- a. The student put the book in the classroom.
- b. The student read the book in the classroom.

1. Please list the theta-grid (or thematic role grid) for the underlined verb in each sentence. (10%)
2. According to your answers above, (a) please identify whether the prepositional phrase “in the classroom” in each sentence is an argument or an adjunct, and (b) use at least one grammatical test to show such a distinction. (10%)

II. Consider the following sentence pairs. (30%)

- a. James forced Jason to *walk* faster.
- b. *James forced Jason to *know* the answer.
- c. *James forced Jason to *see* a stranger.
- d. James forced Jason to *paint a picture*.

1. According to Vendler (1967), there are four classes of verbs: activities, accomplishments, achievements, and states. Please label the (italicized) *verb* in each sentence with the corresponding verb type. (20%)
2. Explain why the two verbs in (b) and (c) cannot pass the semantic test of using “*force someone to V*”. (10%)

III. Decide whether the italicized noun phrases in the following sentences are specific or generic, definite or indefinite. (Note that, if the sentence is ambiguous, you need to specify both conditions with correct labels.) (30%)

- a. His mother married an *American*.
- b. James wants to marry an *American*.
- c. *The elephant* is the largest land mammal.
- d. *The elephant* is the largest mammal in the zoo.
- e. *Elephants* have long trunks.

IV. A recent widely discussed linguistic issue in Chinese is the so-called “語言癌”. For example, the use of “進行一個下架的動作” or “有跟太太做一個報備的動作” with the template of “進行／做＋一個＋Verb＋的動作／部份” is seen as a degenerate phenomenon. Do you think such expressions are really harming our language, just like a cancer? Please justify your answer from a linguistic point of view (no matter which aspect, syntax, semantics, sociolinguistics...etc., you relate your discussion to is accepted). (20%)